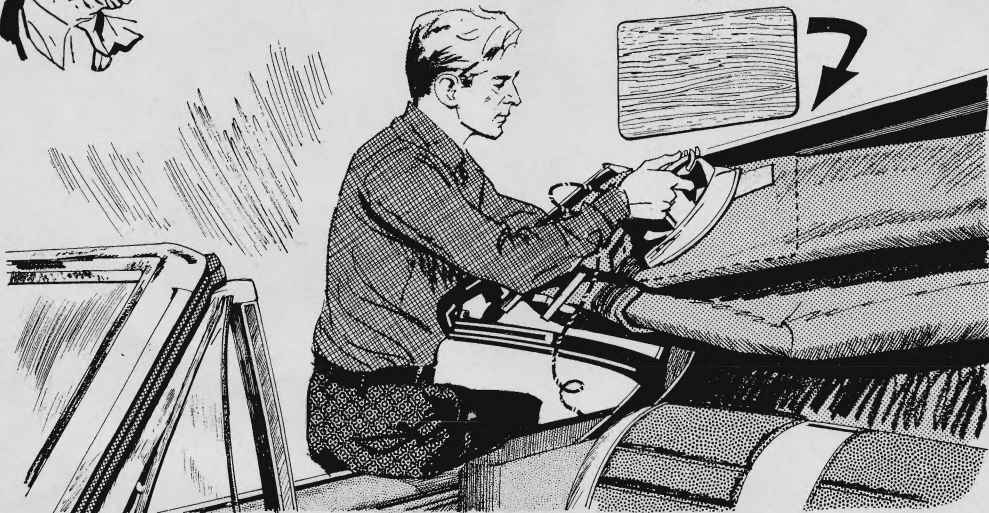




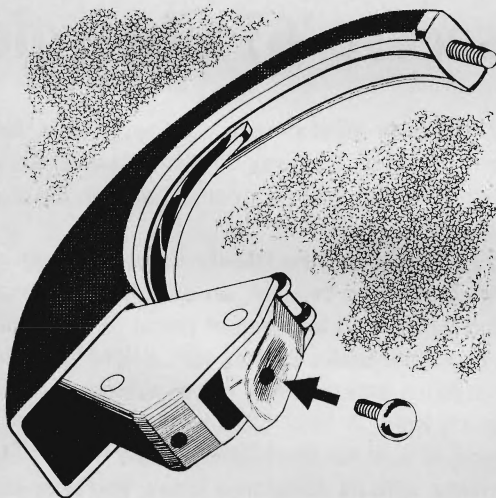
# Hints from the Model Garage

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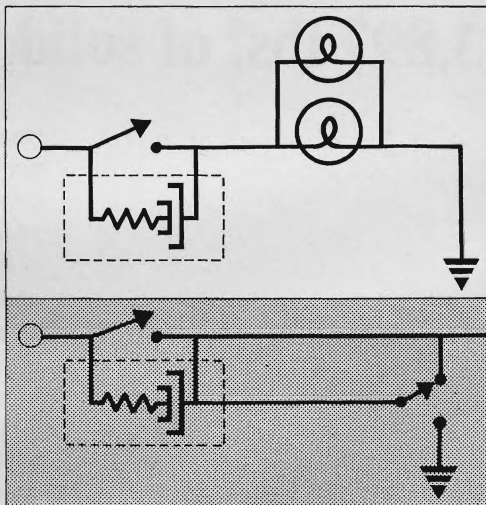


**Repairing slits in soft tops** is easy with heavy-duty iron-on rug tape. Heat settings may vary on different irons—use the minimum heat that will bind the tape. Lower the top to a halfway position and keep the material loosely folded so that when you put the tape on, any sag in the vinyl

caused by the slit will be taken up. Iron the tape to the inside of the top, using a piece of smooth plywood underneath as an ironing board. The adhesive used for iron-on tapes is waterproof, so when you're done ironing, the top is ready for use—rain won't leak through.

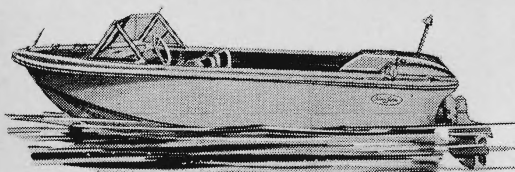


**Worn latch-release mechanisms** in door handles finally cease to open doors at all. Fix them by drilling a hole in the worn spot on the trip, inserting either a sheet-metal screw or a round-head bolt to make a higher wearing point. The repair will last for years.



**For an ideal time-delay switch**, wire your cigarette lighter in series across the headlight switch. Depress the lighter when you leave the car, and unlock your garage or house door aided by your headlights. When the element warms up, the circuit is broken and the lights turn off.

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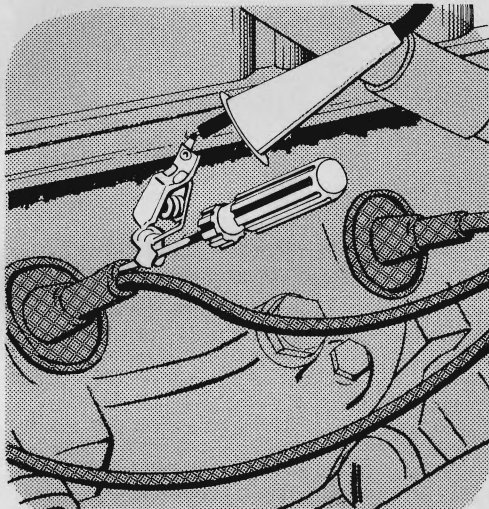
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## More Hints from the Model Garage



When removing undercoating from inside a fender to reach a nut or bolt, play a heat lamp against the outside. This will warm up the undercoating until it becomes soft and can be removed easily with a putty knife. Do not use a torch, as the hot flame may damage paintwork.



For timing engines, a small plastic-handled screwdriver is a big help. Just force it down alongside the wire and then clip the timing light to the blade of the screwdriver. This simple short cut can save hunting around for a suitable hook-up connection for the light.

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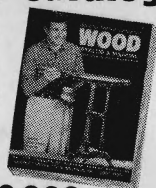
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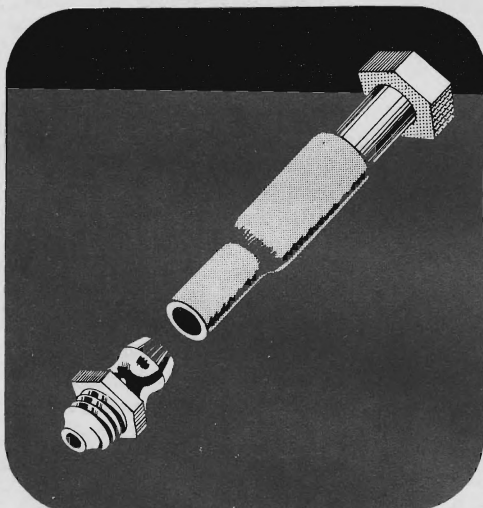
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**Repairing punctures** in tubeless tires in cold weather is hard: The plugs are stiff and difficult to fit. Try this: Bend some wire around the plug and dunk it in hot water for half a minute. This will make the plug more flexible and easier to fit without risk of damage.



**Installing grease fittings** in ball joints, steering gear, and universal joints can be made easier if you press the nipple head into one end of a two-inch-long windshield-wiper hose and put a hex-head bolt in the other. Screw the fitting in, pull the hose off, tighten with a wrench.

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